MARVEL
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JED MacKAY · LEE GARBETT · ANTONIO FABELA
THE DEATH OF DOCTOR STRANGE

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Doctor Strange is dead. And with him gone, so too is Earth's magic barrier that warded off other dimensional threats. The planet is being occupied by kingdoms from across all of reality. But they aren't invading…they're fleeing.

That includes Clea, a sorcerer of the Purple Dimension and Strange's estranged wife. She has been chased back to Earth by the Three Mothers, mysterious apex predators hunting magical beings.

But even the combined might of the Avengers, Wong, Doctor Voodoo and a time-displaced Doctor Strange weren't enough to defeat them.

With Clea's help, Doctor Strange discovered that Baron Mordo took the missing Cloak of Levitation and the Eye of Agamotto.

Now Doctor Strange and Clea are at his castle, ready to take them back.

Jed MacKay
WRITER

Lee Garbett
ARTIST

Antonio Fabela
COLORIST

VC's Cory Petit
LETTERING

Kaare Andrews
COVER

Paco Medina & Jesus Aburtov; Annie Wu
VARIANT COVERS

Kat Gregorowicz
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Darren Shan
EDITOR

C.B. Cebulski
EDITOR IN CHIEF

SPECIAL THANKS TO TOM BREVOORT

DOCTOR STRANGE CREATED BY STAN LEE & STEVE DITKO

CHAPTER EIGHT:

Mordo

CASTLE MORDO.
TRANSYLVANIA.
...I COULD NOT BELIEVE THAT OVER ALL THESE YEARS, AFTER ALL YOUR ATROCITIES, I HADN'T KILLED YOU YET.
BUT PLEASE, DON'T WORRY, KARL...
...THAT IS A MISTAKE I INTEND TO CORRECT!
NO.
NO.

NO.
I AM BARON KARL AMADEUS MORDO.
LORD OF CASTLE MORDO.
I HAVE DONE MUCH EVIL IN MY LIFE. I HAVE MURDERED, STOLEN AND CONSORTED WITH DEMONS.
AND I FEEL REMORSE FOR NONE OF IT.
MY ONLY REGRET IN LIFE, MY SINGLE LAMENT...
...IS THAT I AM INNOCENT OF THE MURDER YOU ACCUSE ME OF.
AND I WILL NOT BE SPOKEN TO IN SUCH A MANNER IN MY HOME.

HE'S LYING.

YOU ARE A FOOL.

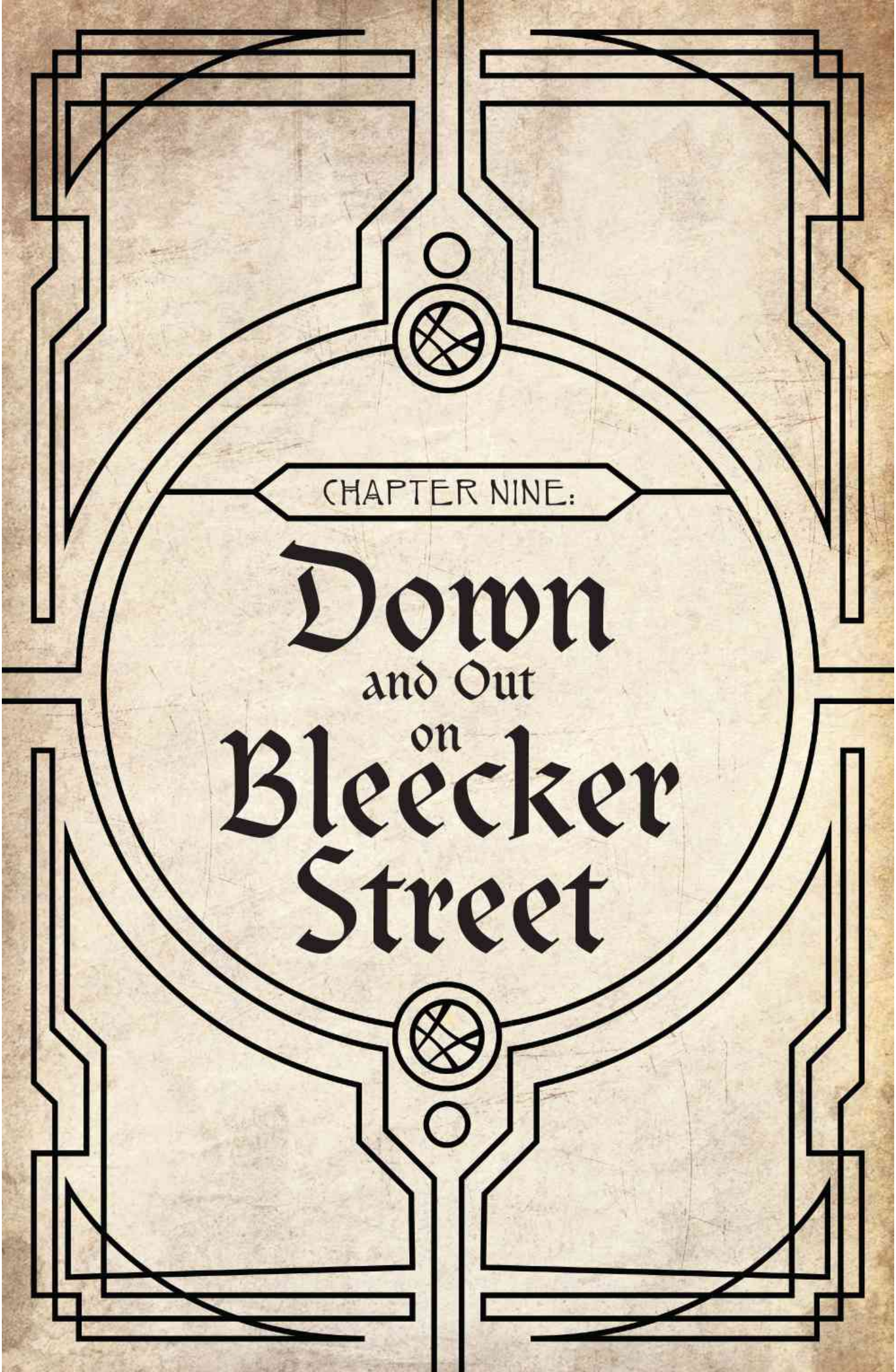
HERE, YOUR BAUBLES.
I FOUND THEM SHORTLY BEFORE YOU ARRIVED, HIDDEN HERE IN MY HOME.

I HAVE BEEN MADE TO APPEAR GUILTY.
PRESUMABLY, WHOEVER DID KILL YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE ME PUNISHED FOR IT.

AND I AM SUPPOSED TO TAKE YOU AT YOUR WORD?
THE "NOBLE" BARON MORDO?

PFF.
ASK YOURSELF THIS THEN, OH "BRILLIANT" DOCTOR STRANGE.
DO YOU REALLY THINK, DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE, THAT IF I'D FINALLY KILLED YOU--
--AFTER, AS YOU SAID, ALL THESE YEARS, ALL THESE ATROCITIES...

...THAT I WOULD *LIE* ABOUT IT?
EVEN IF MY *LIFE* BE FORFEIT?
NO.
NO, DAMN YOU.
YOU'D WASTE YOUR DYING BREATH *CROWING* ABOUT IT.


CHAPTER NINE:
Down
and Out
on
Bleecker
Street

LATER.
SANCTUM SANCTORUM.
THIS IS FOOTAGE TAKEN BY A BRITISH NAVAL INTELLIGENCE DRONE, PASSED ON TO US BY MI-13.
AS YOU CAN SEE, THINGS HAVE BEEN ESCALATING.
IT WOULD APPEAR THAT DAGOTH IS NO LONGER A GOING CONCERN.

IF THE THREE MOTHERS ARE ON EARTH, WE DON'T KNOW WHERE.
OUR BEST GUESS HAS THEM RETREATING TO ANOTHER DIMENSION TO PREPARE FOR THEIR NEXT...
...MEAL?
...I WAS GOING TO SAY "SORTIE," BUT REALISTICALLY, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE SAME THING.
WE WERE LUCKY.
THEIR DESTRUCTION WAS CONTAINED TO KALIMESH. NEXT TIME, HOWEVER, IT COULD BE ANY OF US.
I'M TOLD THAT THE SCHOOL I FOUNDED IS BEING EVACUATED, AT LEAST.
HOW IS YOUR INVESTIGATION GOING?
POORLY.
MORDO WAS A DEAD END.
DON'T GIVE UP, DOCTOR.
WE NEED TO COME UP WITH A PLAN BEYOND MINIMIZING DAMAGE.
CAPTAIN AMERICA OUT.
RAAAAGHH!
AVENGERS
PRIORITY IDENTICARD
AUTHORIZED CARDHOLDER
FULL SECURITY CLEARANCE
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL DIRECTOR
UNITED STATES PRESIDENT
BY THE HOARY HOSTS OF HOGGOTH.

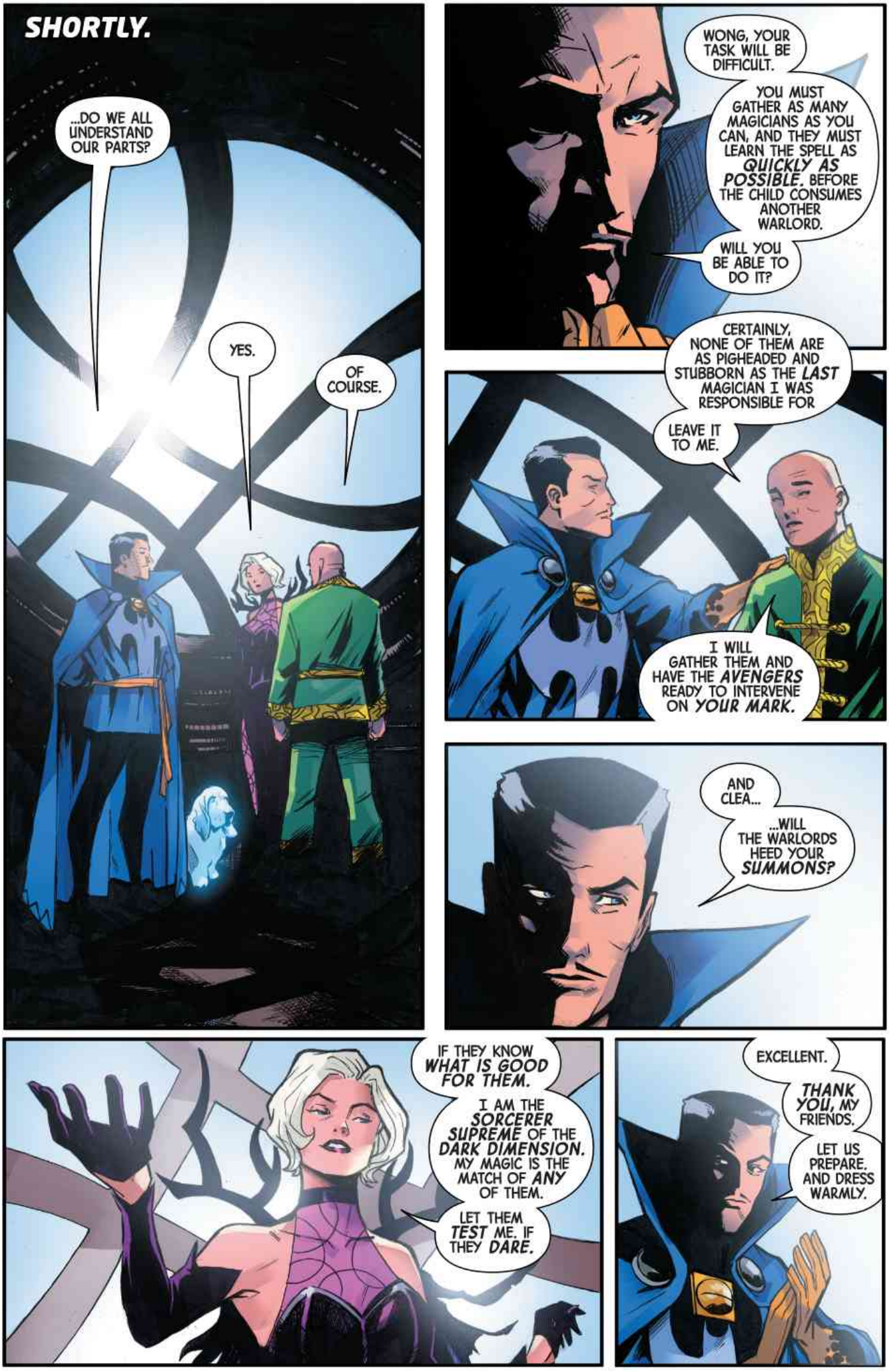
ALLOW ME TO LIAISE WITH THE AVENGERS, STEPHEN.
YOU WORK ON OUR NEXT MOVE.
"NEXT MOVE."
I AM AT A LOSS AS TO WHAT THAT COULD POSSIBLY LOOK LIKE, WONG.
I HAD THOUGHT MYSELF SO CLEVER.
CREATING A CONTINGENCY--A TEMPORAL PHANTOM.
AND FOR WHAT?
I DON'T RECOGNIZE THIS WORLD--THIS LIFE THAT WAS LED FOR YEARS IN MY SUBJECTIVE FUTURE.
I DON'T RECOGNIZE THE PEOPLE IN IT.
I AM BUT A PUZZLE PIECE, FITTING POORLY INTO THE HOLE THAT STEPHEN STRANGE'S DEATH LEFT IN THE WORLD.
HOW DID I THINK THIS WOULD WORK?!
WHO DID I THINK I WAS?

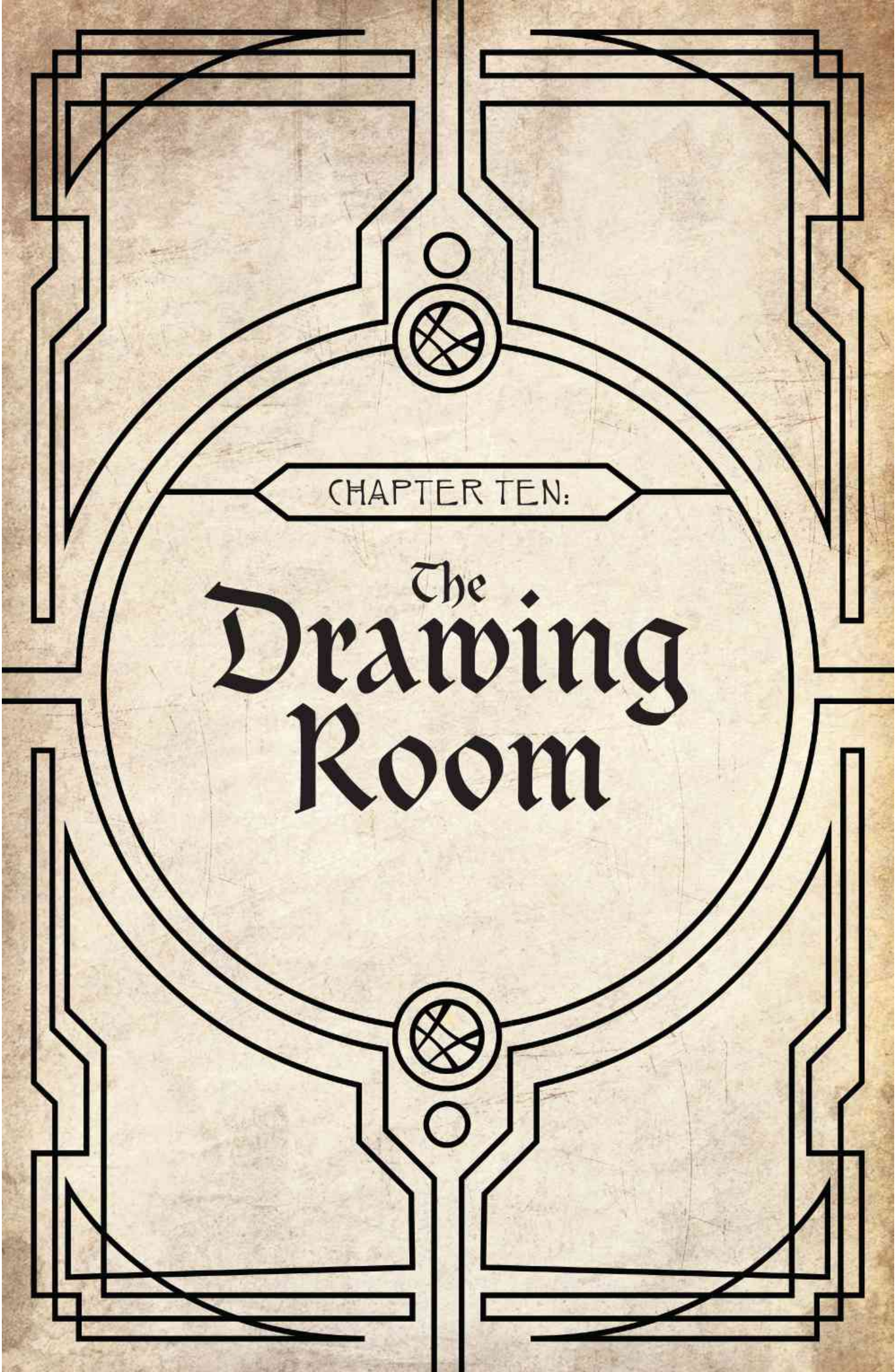
CLEA...?
YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE DOCTOR STRANGE.
MASTER OF THE BLACK ARTS.
AND I BELIEVE IN YOU.
BECAUSE AT THE MOMENT IN TIME YOU COME FROM...
...YOU STILL BELIEVE THAT YOU CAN FIX ANYTHING.
AND THAT'S WHO WE ALL NEED RIGHT NOW.

UH.
HEY, DOC.
OH.
HELLO, BATS.
WITH ALL THAT'S HAPPENED, WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SPEAK, HAVE WE?
AW, THAT'S OKAY.
I KNOW YOU GUYS ARE BUSY.
AND YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW ME, NOT REALLY...
...BUT YOU STILL SMELL THE SAME.
YOU KNOW, I ALWAYS WANTED A DOG. BUT I WAS SO BUSY.
I'M GLAD THAT I EVENTUALLY GOT ONE.
HEH.
HA! MORE LIKE I GOT A HUMAN!
THAT WOULD MAKE SENSE.
HEY.
DO YOU WANT TO GO FOR WALKIES?

...IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORDO, IS THE THING. WHO ELSE?
NO ONE HATES ME AS MUCH AS HE DOES. BUT I CANNOT BELIEVE A WORLD EXISTS WHERE HE WOULD DENY IT, EVEN TO SAVE HIS OWN SKIN.
OH, MORDO'S A CHARMER, THAT'S FOR SURE.
BUT YOU GOT TO LOOK AT IT THIS WAY--
--WHO HATES YOU BOTH?
TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE, DOC.
SOMEONE WHO KNOWS MORDO'S TRICKS, BORROWING POWER, LIKE YOU SAID. SET HIM UP FOR THE FALL.
HMMM.
→WOOF←
→WOOF←
→WOOOF!
--SCUSE ME.
SO WHO WANTS BOTH YOU AND MORDO DEAD?
SOMEONE I HURT. OR THWARTED, AT THE VERY LEAST.
AND SOMEONE WHO HATES MORDO.
BECAUSE NOT ONLY WAS KARL FRAMED, MY MURDER...THE NOT-SO-SECRET WISH OF HIS HEART, WAS TAKEN FROM HIM.
BUT WHO WOULD PLAY CAT'S-PAW FOR THE WARLORDS IN RETURN FOR SUCH SATISFACTION?
I DUNNO. FOR ALL WE KNOW, IT'S BEFORE MY TIME AND AFTER YOURS.

OH.
HUH?
DOC? DOC!
COME, BATS!
WE HAVE A LEAD!
BUT FIRST...
...WE MUST GATHER ALL THE PLAYERS TOGETHER.
WHAT? WHY?
BECAUSE THIS IS A MYSTERY, LITTLE FRIEND.
AND THAT IS HOW IT IS DONE.


SHORTLY.
...DO WE ALL UNDERSTAND OUR PARTS?
YES.
OF COURSE.
WONG, YOUR TASK WILL BE DIFFICULT.
YOU MUST GATHER AS MANY MAGICIANS AS YOU CAN, AND THEY MUST LEARN THE SPELL AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. BEFORE THE CHILD CONSUMES ANOTHER WARLORD.
WILL YOU BE ABLE TO DO IT?
CERTAINLY, NONE OF THEM ARE AS PIGHEADED AND STUBBORN AS THE LAST MAGICIAN I WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR
LEAVE IT TO ME.
I WILL GATHER THEM AND HAVE THE AVENGERS READY TO INTERVENE ON YOUR MARK.
AND CLEA...
...WILL THE WARLORDS HEED YOUR SUMMONS?
IF THEY KNOW WHAT IS GOOD FOR THEM.
I AM THE SORCERER SUPREME OF THE DARK DIMENSION. MY MAGIC IS THE MATCH OF ANY OF THEM.
LET THEM TEST ME, IF THEY DARE.
EXCELLENT.
THANK YOU, MY FRIENDS.
LET US PREPARE. AND DRESS WARMLY.


CHAPTER TEN:
The Drawing Room

ANTARCTICA.
NEW UMARRIA. THE DOMAIN OF THE WARLORD UMAR.
--AND THE X-MEN ARE STANDING BY FOR YOUR SUMMONS, STEPHEN.
EXCELLENT. THANK YOU, MS. RASPUTINA.
ZOUNDS.
SUCH MADNESS, TO SEE SIGHTS SUCH AS THESE IN THE TRACKLESS ANTARCTIC WASTES.
THAT IS MY MOTHER ALL OVER, CERTAINLY. TASTEFUL AS ALWAYS.
PERHAPS THE PENGUINS ARE IMPRESSED.
COME. WE HAVE A CONCLAVE TO ATTEND.

DREAD WARLORDS.
KARL.
YOU ALL KNOW WHO I AM.
YOU ALL KNOW WHAT HAS BEEN DONE TO ME.
AND YOU ALL KNOW YOUR OWN CULPABILITY IN THIS CRIME.

HO, HO!
HAVE YOU COME TO BRING US TO JUSTICE, STRANGE? WOULD YOU CLAP AGGAMON IN IRONS? BRING ME BEFORE A JUDGE AND JURY?
HO, HO, HO!
DO YOU BELIEVE US COWED BY THIS SHOW OF FORCE, BRINGING TWO SORCERERS SUPREME WITH YOU TO THIS CONCLAVE?
I AM LORD OF THE SEETHING VOLCANO! I AM THE SPIRIT OF DECAY! I AM THE SORCERER SUPREME OF THE SIXTH DIMENSION!
TIBORO FEARS NOTHING!
OH, STRANGE, DO AMUSE ME, I BEG OF YOU.
I AGREED TO HOST THIS CONCLAVE ONLY IN HOPES OF FINDING YOUR FLAILING BRAVADO A HUMOROUS DIVERSION.
I WILL ENDEAVOR TO DO MY BEST, LIMAR.
AFTER ALL, WHO DOES NOT LOVE A MURDER MYSTERY? AND THE BEST ONES END THE SAME WAY--WITH ALL INVOLVED GATHERED TOGETHER.
WHILE THE DETECTIVE REVEALS THE TRUTH.

IT WAS SIMPLE FOR ME TO UNDERSTAND HOW I WAS OVERCOME.
THE POWERS OF FOUR DREAD WARLORDS--YOUR GOOD SELVES AND THE LATE, UNLAMENTED DAGOTH, CONJOINED AND CHANNELED THROUGH A PAWN.
UMAR, TIBORO, DAGOTH AND AGGAMON.
THE FOUR OF YOU, HATED RIVALS... YOU WOULD NEVER WORK TOGETHER. THE CONCEPT IS ANATHEMA--IT'S AS FAR OUTSIDE YOUR NATURES AS LOVE, CHARITY OR KINDNESS.
BUT OVERRIDING YOUR CRUELTY, YOUR HATRED AND YOUR GRASPING FOR POWER...
...SELF-PRESERVATION.
THE PEREGRINE CHILD AND ITS THREE MOTHERS. A PREDATOR WHICH CAST YOU IN THE UNCOMFORTABLE ROLE OF PREY.
SO: ESCAPE.
TO EARTH.
WHERE ELSE IN ALL THE DIMENSIONS COULD YOU FIND SUCH BEINGS AS THE AVENGERS? THE X-MEN? THE FANTASTIC FOUR?
IF ANYWHERE OFFERED SAFE HARBOR, SURELY IT MUST BE EARTH.
BUT NO RAGGED REFUGEES WERE YOU FOUR.
ROXXON INDUSTRIES
YOU WOULD FLEE TO EARTH. BUT YOU WOULD TAKE YOUR KINGDOMS WITH YOU.
AND FOR THAT, THE BARRIER MUST FALL.
THERE ARE WAYS AROUND THE BARRIER. IT IS FAR FROM PERFECT.
I AM TOLD THE ROXXON CORPORATION SUBVERTED IT IN AID OF AN INVASION JUST RECENTLY. BUT THAT WAS A LONG TIME IN THE MAKING.
YOU WERE IN A HURRY.

THE SORCERER SUPREME MUST BE SLAIN.
A PAWN MUST BE FOUND.
BUT WHY AM I HERE--?
SILENCE, KARL.
AND SO YOU FOUND ONE.
IT WAS A HOOK RICHLY BAITED.
AFTER ALL, THE RITUAL OF MY MURDER, THE REMOVAL OF MY HANDS, AND WITH THEM, MY SOUL AND MY POWER...
ANY MAGICIAN WOULD BE RICHLY SERVED BY ADDING THAT POWER TO THEIR OWN.
BUT THIS WAS PERSONAL AS WELL. THIS WAS SOMEONE WHO BORE ME ILL WILL FOR WHAT I HAD DONE TO THEM.
TWO BIRDS, ONE STONE. BUT THERE WAS A THIRD BIRD INVOLVED.
KARL WAS FRAMED FOR MY MURDER. AND HAVING THAT MURDER STOLEN HURT HIM MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE COULD HAVE.
I HAD THOUGHT MY INVESTIGATION HAD REACHED A DEAD END. AFTER ALL, IF THIS WAS A GRUDGE THAT WAS AFTER MY TIME, HOW WAS I TO KNOW OF IT?
BUT THEN, IT WAS PLACED DIRECTLY BEFORE ME.

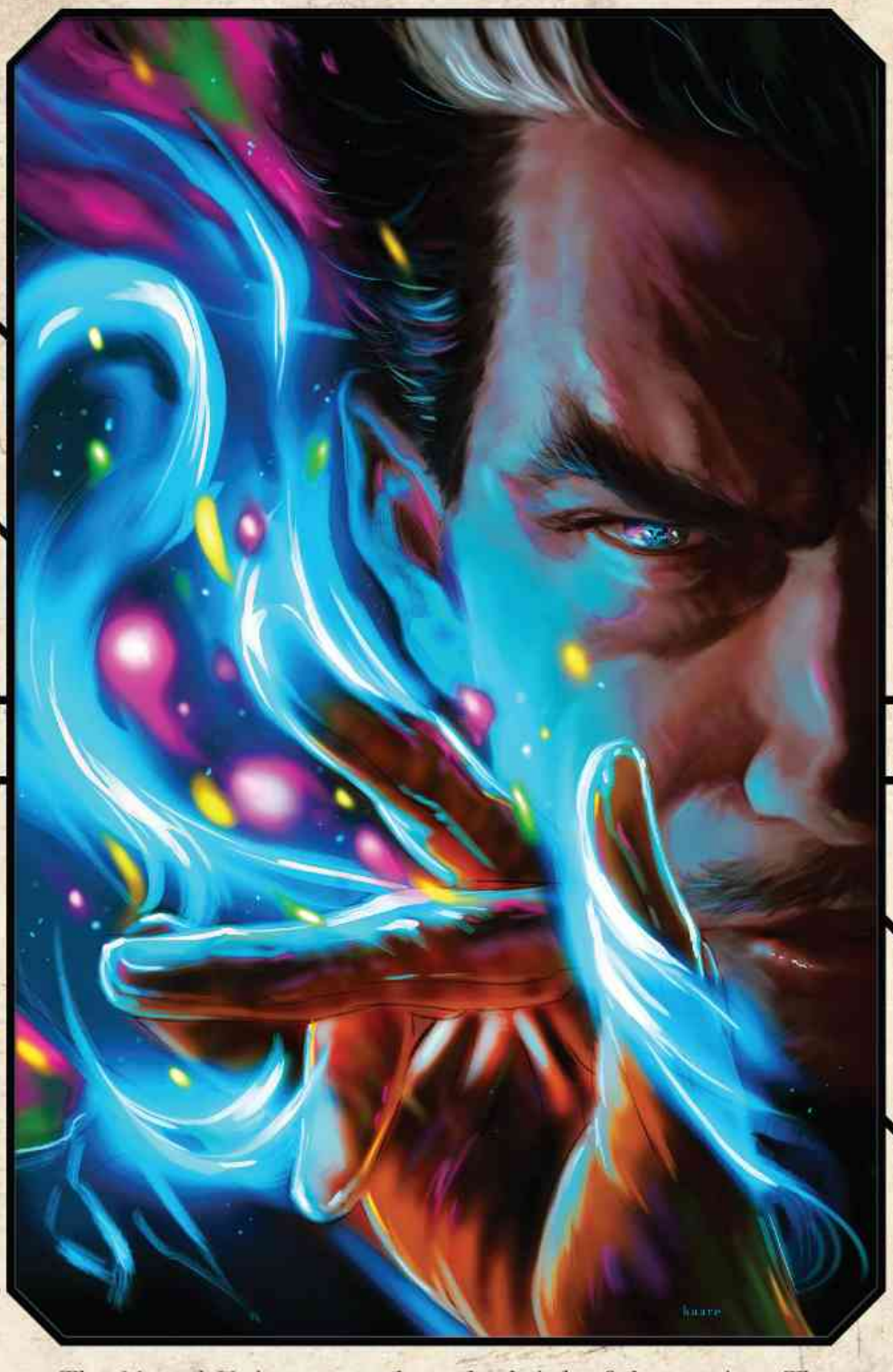
I WAS TOLD THAT I EXILED A MAN INTO THE PURPLE DIMENSION.
A MAN WHO SERVED A DIRE ENEMY OF MINE.
THAT EXILE TO A LAND OF CRUELTY AND SUFFERING WAS ONE THING.
BUT HOW MUCH MORE KEENLY MUST IT HAVE HURT, WHEN THIS MAN'S MASTER, TO WHOM HE HAD GIVEN HIS UNWAVERING LOYALTY, HIS BLOOD AND TEARS AND VERY SOUL...
...MADE NO EFFORT TO SAVE HIM?
WOULD HE NOT WISH TO HURT HIS MASTER THE WAY HE HAD BEEN HURT, THE WAY HE HAD BEEN DISCARDED LIKE A BROKEN TOOL OF NO CONSEQUENCE?
ISN'T THAT RIGHT...
...KAECILIUS?
HEH.
HEH.
AHEHEHEH.
GOD, STRANGE... YOU REALLY DO ENJOY HEARING YOURSELF TALK.

YOU ARE CORRECT, OF COURSE.
THIS HAS BEEN SUCH FUN.
BUT THE GAME HAS RUN ITS COURSE.
I WILL MAKE MY FAITHLESS MASTER, BARON KARL AMADEUS MORDO, SQUEAL WITH ALL THE AGONIES OF THE PURPLE DIMENSION...
AND THEN I WILL KILL YOU AGAIN, WITH YOUR OWN POWER.

NEARBY.
AHHHH.
SWEET SISTERS, DO YOU SMELL IT? CAN YOU TASTE IT ON YOUR TONGUES?
I DO, DREAD SISTER. I CAN.
A FEAST.
TO BE CONCLUDED...

NEXT:

The Murderer is Revealed!



The Marvel Universe stands at the brink of destruction. The Three Mothers and their master, the Peregrine Child, are about to claim victory. And Strange's murderer is having the last laugh. It all comes down to one last trick from the young, time-traveling Doctor Strange...

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THE DEATH OF DOCTOR STRANGE

Checklist

- Death of Doctor Strange #1 - ON SALE NOW
- Death of Doctor Strange #2 - ON SALE NOW
- Death of Doctor Strange: Avengers #1 - ON SALE NOW
- Strange Academy Presents: The Death of Doctor Strange #1 - ON SALE NOW
- Death of Doctor Strange #3 - ON SALE NOW
- Death of Doctor Strange: Spider-Man #1 - ON SALE NOW
- Death of Doctor Strange: White Fox #1 - ON SALE NOW
- Death of Doctor Strange: Blade #1 - ON SALE NOW
- Death of Doctor Strange: X-Men/Black Knight #1 - ON SALE NOW
- Death of Doctor Strange #4 - ON SALE NOW
- Death of Doctor Strange: Bloodstone #1
- Death of Doctor Strange #5

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ZONE